



WELCOME TO THE MSC OLD FARTS' NETWORK (OFN)!!



Welcome to the MSC Old Farts' Network Blog! I've included the "history and lineage" of this most informal and loose organization and the "rules" of membership for your reading pleasure.

HISTORY & LINEAGE. This loose-knit organization was originally the brainchild of COL (ret) Mike McGinley. He started it out as an email distribution list known as the "Old Farts' List." At some point in the distant past Mike claimed to be having computer problems and he asked me to pick it up "temporarily." I discovered that his definition of "temporarily" and mine differ. As a visionary, Mike takes the long view. My perspective at the time had a much shorter horizon. It would seem that we have come to rest, at least on this subject, on Mike's view. As it grew in size, exceeding 700 'members' on the email list, the name was changed to the "MSC Old Farts' Network" (OFN). Sending bulk email messages continued for a few years until email SPAM became "popular" and my ISP and others started blocking the emails I sent. Add to that a job change which took more of my spare time, the email efforts went into limbo-land. Then, as part of my new job, I discovered blogging. I determined that I could start up the OFNetwork information flow by using a blog and email subscription process and avoid, hopefully, most of the trials of the previous email distribution list.

WHAT IS IT? The focus of this blog is information sharing to the OFNetwork readers with emphasis on and military matters and items of general interest to the retired military community. The OFNetwork is principally oriented towards U.S. Army MSC officers; either retired or those who are about to be retired or possibly should have already retired.

Being a part of this distinguished (extinguished?!) group is FREE! There are no dues, fees, or other charges. The only thing it currently "costs" me to collect and pass on the information is time. As my family demands a fair share of my available time to do chores around the house, wash the cars, walk the dog, go (ugh!) shopping, etc., I "manage" the content on an erratic basis.

Note: the OFN is not to be confused with the "Silver Caduceus Association of MSC Officers and Warrant Officers" (formerly "The MSC Network") or any individual "Silver Caduceus Society." Both of these are more formal organizations. For more information on the "Silver Caduceus Association of MSC Officers and Warrant Officers" (what it is, how to join, etc.) please see the bottom of this Welcome.

THE "RULES" (such as they are and subject to capricious change)

- ▶ I don't originate most of the information placed on the blog. It comes from a variety of sources and must meet some sort of personally defined relevance test. Some of it is forwarded from readers. Some content I pull from sites that I think have relevance to retired or about to be retired military. Whenever I have pulled from another website I will include the link at the end of the article. Items forwarded to me by email may or may not include the source's identity when placed on the blog.
- ▶ I generally don't censor, edit or otherwise change the content of items (I will try to remove ads) I receive from members or other sources. I may edit items to weed out irrelevant material or if the item is too long I'll keep only the substance of the content. If I've edited I usually note it.
- ▶ I rarely forward jokes and then only when I think they are really funny and somehow pass my personal critically objective relevancy test.
- ▶ I try not to pass on rumors, urban legends, Jane Fonda stories, or emails that end with "...send this to everyone you know or the world will end."
- ▶ During election years I receive a lot of information on various issue and candidates. I've learned that there is no political content I can send that won't get me some sort of response. So, I generally don't add it unless it's funny or shocking or both. All politically related content starts with the phrase: "Fair and Balanced" which, of course, it will never be.
- ▶ If you want to contribute to the content anything you send may be placed on the blog if it meets my low quality standards and relevancy test, unless you specifically request otherwise. Job postings and information are almost always added to the blog.
- ▶ You can make comments on items on the blog. They will be there for all to see; and they may generate more comments. I moderate the comments and will delete those I consider offensive.
- ▶ ***IMPORTANT ITEM #1: Timeliness is not a feature of this blog;*** I really do work on it in my spare time! If you have sent me something that you'd like to get out in a hurry, I'll make an honest attempt to incorporate it into an update within a week or so of receipt.

- ▶ **IMPORTANT ITEM #2:** The material I send should **never** be treated as the authoritative content. Always check with the referenced source or any web links or other sources that are mentioned in the message. Even though I try to make sure that anything posted is reliable, **I DO NOT ALWAYS validate the content for accuracy.**
- ▶ If you have compliments or comments or just suggestions, send them in and I'll try to accommodate your request. If you find the content you get via the OFN to be overwhelming or not to your liking, you can unsubscribe to the emails but you can still, if you are curious, check the blog itself.

The Roster. Older subscribers will recall "The Roster." I still have the data files and updates that have been sent to me over the past couple of years. I'm pondering how to best publish this information without making it available for the whole 'blogosphere' to see. In addition, while I can look up the email addresses of those who have subscribed to the blog, I don't have other information, such as name, to go along with that email address, making it pretty much useless. I'll try to come up with a solution soon.

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Information on the "Silver Caduceus Association of MSC Officers and Warrant Officers"

The SCA is a non-governmental, formal organization of present, former and retired Army MSC Officers, their surviving spouses and others who are interested in the MSC. You can learn more about this fine organization (of which I'm a member) and get information on the bi-annual reunion at their website: <http://www.silvercaduceusassociation.com/>